

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending August 26, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Winter Wheat Seeding Began
Western Washington Received Record Rainfall**

FIELD CROPS

Heavy rainfall on the western side of the state hindered fieldwork, but was welcomed by all producers to alleviate drought conditions. Winter wheat seeding has begun. Grain harvest continued to progress with few delays from showers and some spring grains were still too green to harvest. Lentil harvest was nearly half completed. Potato, onion, carrot, and mint harvests continued. Trimming continued on Douglas and Noble firs. Noble fir shortage is possible this holiday season. Fields in northwestern Washington were prepared for flower bulb planting. Sweet corn harvest was underway with several corn mazes open for business.

LIVESTOCK

Areas of western Washington received record rainfall this past week, relieving parched range and pastures. Sparse showers across eastern Washington did little to alleviate dry range and pasture conditions. Second cutting of alfalfa wrapped up with third cutting progressing and few fields underway for a fourth cutting. Irrigation water has been shut off in areas of Kittitas County. Okanogan and Ferry Counties have started Emergency Conservation Programs for livestock water, since watering sources have dried. Eastern Washington reported tight hay supplies. Range and pasture conditions continued to deteriorate with 20% very poor, 50% poor, and 30% fair.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Blueberry, blackberry, and general vegetable harvests continued. U-pick farms reported active sales. Hot weather advanced grape maturity. Early apple varieties, pear, peach, and nectarine harvests continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
5.8	6.9

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	25	55	20	-
Subsoil	22	60	18	-
Irrigation Water	10	10	80	-
Hay and Roughage	-	20	80	-

VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	70	59	87	72
Winter Wheat Harvested	95	83	96	88
Barley Harvested	65	46	85	72
Potatoes Harvested	23	19	28	22
Dry Peas Harvested	77	66	75	77
Alfalfa, 2 nd cutting	100	99	100	99
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	77	63	77	71
Dry Beans Harvested	10	5	12	7

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Barley Dryland	3	30	37	30	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potatoes	-	-	10	90	-

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor: Ag producers were jubilant over heavy rainfall which helped to alleviate drought conditions. Christmas tree growers continued top work on Noble fir. U-Pick vegetable farms reported brisk sales of string beans and other vegetable crops. Dairy producers continued making silage.

King/Pierce: Extremely heavy rains midweek shut down farming operations. Blackberry, blueberry, and general vegetable harvest continued. Fields were being prepared in anticipation of bulb planting. Pastures were beginning to green up due to the rain and cooler nights.

Clallam/Jefferson: Both counties received ¾ inches to 1¼ inches of rain during the week. Grain harvest was well underway for oats, barley, and wheat. Seed crops and grass crops looked excellent. There were no reports of crop damage.

Clallam/Snohomish: Snohomish County had record breaking rainfall on two days during the week. The rivers rose slightly and then went back to the pre-storm conditions quickly. U-Pick raspberry and blueberry signs were everywhere. Sweet corn harvest

began. Corn mazes were very busy. Wheat harvest continued as the weather permitted.

Snohomish (2nd Report) : Rain fell on most parts of the county midweek, with some areas receiving up to 3 inches. Pastures that were showing signs of drought were already greening up again. Grass silage harvest and haying continued, as the weather allowed. Blueberry harvest continued and early apples were ripe. Sweet corn was nearly ready for picking.

Thurston/Pierce: Crop conditions remained favorable. The South Puget Sound area received a record breaking rainfall during the middle of the week. The FSA office has not yet received any reports of damage.

Thurston (2nd Report): Heavy rainfall, exceeding 2 and 1/4 inches, early in the week, was welcomed by all agricultural producers. Blueberry harvest peaked, with excellent yields reported. Livestock producers were busy pulling tansy ragwort. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas fir. Growers were reporting that Noble fir were completely sold out for this year's holiday season!

CENTRAL

Benton: Recent rains cooled things off and reduced the fire hazard, but did little to help low soil moisture conditions. Harvest continued with early apples, soft fruit, and summer vegetables. Grapes were maturing rapidly under hot conditions.

Chelan/Douglas: Harvest began for early apple varieties and Bartlett pears. Full pear harvest should begin around the first of September. Winter wheat yields were reported as average. Pasture and range conditions continued to be dry.

Franklin: Rain at midweek added moisture to soil, but delayed some field operations. Wheat, potato, sweet corn, and carrot harvests continued. The second cutting of alfalfa progressed. Apples and peaches were being picked. Alfalfa was seeded.

Grant: Mint swathing was in progress. Alfalfa seed and grass seed fields were planted. Alfalfa seed harvest progressed. Dry bean swathing and lifting harvest is to start soon. Dryland wheat seeding was in progress. Carrot seed and onion harvest began. Silage harvest will begin this week. Straw baling continued. The fourth cutting of alfalfa began. Sweet corn harvest continued. Peach, nectarine, and pear harvests continued. Gala apples first picking began in the northern areas, and the second picking of Galas began in the southern areas.

Kittitas: The second cutting of timothy hay was underway in areas with enough water. Sweet corn harvest is to begin soon. The third cutting of alfalfa began. Irrigated pastures were stressed due to lack of water. Grain harvest was underway.

Kittitas (2nd Report): Rainstorms were welcomed. Irrigation water was turned off to many parts of the county. Pastures and rangeland were in bad condition, due to the lack of adequate moisture.

Klickitat: Very dry conditions still prevailed, although some rain received during the week helped to reduce fire potential. Ranges and pastures in valleys, and now the mountains, continued to deteriorate due to the drought. Winter wheat harvest wound down with yields in the valley near normal, but significantly lower than normal in the eastern part of the county. Spring grain was still being harvested with yields below average. Peach harvest continued.

Okanogan/Ferry: Wheat harvest was well underway, and fall seeding was starting to take place. Fair to average yields were reported for the winter wheat. Range conditions remained about the same as last reported, with the higher ranges being fair to good and the lower ranges being very dry and poor. Some livestock water sources have dried up. Emergency Conservation Programs have been implemented for livestock water in Okanogan County and Ferry

County. Full pear harvest should be underway by September 1.

Yakima: Temperatures were generally cooler, ranging from 9 degrees below normal to 3 degrees above normal, with .3 of an inch of precipitation. There

were no crop losses due to weather conditions.

Yakima (2nd Report): Bartlett pear and Gala apple harvests continued. The weather cooperated this week, but size was still a concern. Fresh market quality was good.

EASTERN

Adams: Harvest was complete in the county. Winter wheat seeding began with 10 percent completed, and more growers will be seeding as the week progresses. A few growers reported that last weeks rain actually lowered the quality of the summer fallow, as they were unable to set good furrows.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest was nearing completion, except in the higher elevations of both counties. Yields ranged from very poor for many producers, to nearly average for some. Ranges and pastures were in poor condition due to the drought. While seeding fall crops is still 2-4 weeks away, moisture for planting was of great concern.

Garfield (2nd Report): Harvest ended with a whimper. Lack of moisture for fall seeding of wheat was a concern. There was a lot of worry over grasshoppers attacking emerging fall seeded wheat, in low rainfall areas, once the rain arrives. There was a lots of concern about root/stem diseases in stubble for future crop infections.

Lincoln: A nice rain shut down harvesting for 2 to 3 days. Yields for winter wheat were a little lower than average, with the spring grain yields much lower due to frost and drought. Some areas had damage due to

grasshoppers. There is concern for seeding winter wheat this fall.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Winter wheat harvest was nearly complete. Spring wheat and barley harvest will be nearly complete by the week's end. Winter wheat seeding began in the southern end of the county.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Temperatures moderated to frost in a portion of the county, on Monday morning. A little rain was received, but not enough to help anything at this time. Harvest got underway Friday, but a large number of farmers were having to wait for spring grains to ripen. The pasture and grazing situation continued to be really bad in the two counties. Hay to purchase was very tight.

Stevens: Most of the county received rain midweek. Temperatures were fall-like, with cool mornings and evenings. The weekend brought higher temperatures.

Whitman: Winter wheat harvest continued with few delays and was very near completion for the county. Harvesting of spring grains progressed, but in many locations fields were still too green to cut. Lentil harvest in the eastern portion of the county, was nearing the mid-point.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

August 27, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	46	75	60	-2	75	-10	9	-12	2.07	1.72	4	29.47	-6.55	82	149
Everett	53	75	62	-2	87	-3	17	-11	1.71	1.36	3	26.33	-9.99	72	147
Hoquiam	47	74	59	-3	68	-16	3	-18	2.68	2.29	3	46.60	-21.22	69	170
Kelso	48	81	62	-3	88	-10	21	-14	0.94	0.56	3	20.89	-25.51	45	128
Olympia	41	81	60	-4	70	-20	9	-19	2.13	1.78	3	32.46	-18.06	64	144
Seattle-Tacoma	51	78	62	-4	87	-18	18	-22	2.20	1.92	4	27.31	-9.76	74	134
Shelton	44	80	60	-6	70	-33	6	-35	3.07	2.75	4	44.28	-20.59	68	151
Tacoma	45	79	61	-4	81	-18	14	-20	0.21	-0.14	2	26.74	-13.41	67	136
Vancouver	49	84	65	0	104	3	34	-1	0.85	0.53	3	24.23	-16.97	59	146
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	45	90	64	-3	100	-16	31	-21	0.33	0.22	2	7.31	-1.56	82	74
Omak	44	91	66	1	115	4	45	-3	0.12	-0.16	2	6.20	-8.73	42	68
Stampede Pass	42	75	54	-2	33	-13	6	-1	1.37	0.85	3	55.58	-25.38	69	174
Wenatchee	50	89	67	-5	122	-29	52	-30	0.23	0.09	2	5.76	-2.47	70	69
Yakima AP	43	91	65	-4	106	-20	37	-23	0.33	0.22	2	5.08	-2.81	64	65
NORTHEAST															
Colville	43	95	65	1	110	4	40	-4	0.53	0.25	3	13.45	-7.62	64	83
Deer Park	35	89	60	-8	75	-45	11	-44	0.35	0.14	3	13.56	-4.86	74	118
Spokane AP	44	90	64	-4	99	-23	31	-25	0.19	0.00	1	10.53	-5.85	64	102
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	46	92	67	-7	118	-42	48	-42	0.05	-0.02	2	5.32	-1.88	74	71
Moses Lake	45	94	66	-8	113	-47	43	-47	0.10	0.03	2	6.61	-0.59	92	67
Quincy	45	89	65	-5	110	-26	40	-27	0.04	-0.05	1	5.19	-2.57	67	58
Ritzville	44	83	62	-6	89	-34	24	-34	0.47	0.33	2	10.39	-0.87	92	78
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	47	90	69	-8	132	-51	62	-51	0.07	0.00	2	6.24	-0.19	97	66
Pasco	44	93	69	-5	132	-26	62	-26	0.34	0.21	2	7.97	0.53	107	75
Pullman	37	93	61	-4	80	-26	15	-31	0.07	-0.14	1	13.19	-7.81	63	107
Walla Walla AP	49	91	69	-5	134	-29	64	-30	0.02	-0.19	1	15.46	-3.92	80	96
Whitman Mission	32	91	64	-6	96	-36	31	-35	0.01	-0.13	1	14.10	0.44	103	102
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	39	81	62	-8	82	-48	24	-39	0.52	0.17	3	16.86	-8.95	65	105
Lewiston ID	52	88	70	-3	141	-17	71	-17	0.05	-0.16	1	11.85	-0.44	96	105

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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